

Opinion

Break with Tradition Be Thankful!

By THE REV. MARGARET MURRAY
St. Stephen's, Hornby
and St. John's Anglican, Stewarttown

'National Thanksgiving' - Is that a contradiction in terms? In our Canadian muddle, can we be thankful all at the same time? Does National Thanksgiving actually include the notion of being thankful for our nation?

We are often critical of the press for the negative focus in the stories presented as news. I wonder if we, as Canadians, are not sometimes pre-disposed towards a negative view of things.

After four days of wonderful weather, I made the comment: "Isn't it a gorgeous day?" The other person responded, "Yes, but it can't last." We went on to talk about what would probably happen to our weather, instead of enjoying the gift of a beautiful day!

The Earth has been very generous this year - offering us her bounty and abundance a consistent two weeks ahead of schedule. But don't get carried away in enjoying that. Don't forget; winter will probably come two weeks early too!

But then, why should we be cheerful? Things are in a mess. The government is up to no good - internationally, nationally, provincially, regionally, locally.

- G.S.T.
- Constitutional give-aways
- strikes requiring back-to-work legislation
- too many minority rights issues
- too much money being squandered on social assistance for those who are looking for a 'free ride' ...

Never mind the fact that most of us have more than enough. We would rather pat ourselves on the back for good behavior and rationalize the look of hunger we see in someone's eyes.

Never mind the fact that our communities are safer than U.S. communities and much safer than the spots where armed guards walk the streets and the night air is shattered by the sound of terrorist bombing.

Never mind the fact that we value the union-management process when it is our contract being settled but we want the government to intercede in the labor disputes which cause inconvenience in our lives.

Never mind the fact that we don't want to be in the minority - racially or otherwise. We are still quick to criticize the government's struggle to establish justice for all.

Never mind the fact that *even with the G.S.T.*, we enjoy a standard of living far above the majority of the countries in our world.

And that is why so many people would like to be Canadians. The grass is greener on our side! For once, let us set aside our negativism. Break with tradition - Be Thankful!

Statfacts

Municipal governments in recent years have spent more than they collected. Statistics Canada figures show total local government spending in 1990 was almost \$59.6 billion. With revenue totalling \$57.6 billion, this left a \$2 billion shortfall.



Our Readers Write

Keep 'outside' hunters out

Dear Editor:

I appreciate the coverage by your newspaper of the Milton municipal council meeting in the Weekend, Sept. 28 issue when the discharge of firearms was discussed. However I do take exception to the editorial in the same issue.

If the reporter had read the 70-page report that was given to town councillors on Sept. 20 and also if some of the councillors had read it, then you would not have printed that there was a lack of information.

Included in the report were numerous letters I received concerning trespass, abuse and assault in our area both during the annual Ministry of Natural Resources November hunt and throughout the year. The reporter would have

written the editorial quite differently, if he had taken the time to review the contents of the report.

The problem relating to damage to crops and trees can be solved without an annual hunt. If the deer were classed as predators, then the farmers could shoot them all year round, and the problem would be solved. It is not necessary for outside hunters to be brought in to solve our problems.

This is not a game or a question of damage statistics; it is a question of trespass, poaching, verbal and physical intimidation and damage to property, crops and buildings. That which keeps going on year after year must be stopped.

R.R. Higgins,
RR2 Rockwood

Over 100 turn out to blood clinic

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Acton Red Cross Blood Donor Committee I would like to take this opportunity to give a BIG thank-you to the people of the Acton area who supported our recent Blood Donor Clinic held Sept. 26 at the Acton Legion Hall.

Over 125 people gave their time and blood. There was a strong response to the appeal for blood to make up for shortages caused by the TTC strike. The large turnout of donors resulted in longer-than-normal waits for a bed. We would like to thank all of the donors for their patience and understanding. For the third clinic in a row, Acton

has more than achieved its goal of 100 units of blood. This recent clinic was a great success, collecting 128 pints of blood.

Once again, thank you to the donors, the volunteers who have been faithfully manning the clinic, the sponsor, AB Foodland and to this newspaper for helping us to spread the word that blood is needed. We look forward to seeing you all again at the next clinic on December 12. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Sandra L. Moon
Acton Red Cross Blood Donor Committee

Halton Hills

WEEKEND

The Georgetown Independent and Acton Free Press

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Publisher

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